

Amendment of the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-55 and add new claims 56-62.

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Cancelled).
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55. (Cancelled).
56. (New) A method for providing multi-class processing of login requests comprising:
 - associating a login cookie class with a login cookie; and
 - providing a level of service to login attempts associated with the login cookie based on the login cookie class of the login cookie.

57. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein providing a level of service to login attempts associated with the login cookie based on the login cookie class of the login cookie further comprises:

imposing a longer time delay between an invalid login attempt and a subsequent login attempt for a second-class login cookie than for a first-class login cookie.

58. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein providing a level of service to login attempts associated with the login cookie based on the login cookie class of the login cookie further comprises:

invalidates the subsequent login attempt for the second-class login before a user name and password are processed responsive to the subsequent login attempt being performed before the expiration of the longer time delay.

59. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein providing a level of service to login attempts associated with the login cookie based on the login cookie class of the login cookie further comprises:

serializing login attempts made without a first-class login cookie.

60. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein providing a level of service to login attempts associated with the login cookie based on the login cookie class of the login cookie further comprises:

providing a limited number of invalid, consecutive login attempts for a class of login cookie; and

responsive to the limited number being zero, associating a different class of login cookie with a more preferential level of service with the login cookie.

61. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein providing a level of service to login attempts associated with the login cookie based on the login cookie class of the login cookie further comprises:

processing a login attempt associated with a class with a less preferential level of service at a slower defined rate than another class with a more preferential level of service based on a login state which defines a rate at which a server can process login attempts.

62. (New) A computer program product for use in conjunction with a computer system, the computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium and a

computer program mechanism embedded therein, the computer program mechanism comprising:

instructions for associating a login cookie class with a login cookie; and

instructions for providing a level of service to login attempts associated with the login cookie based on the login cookie class of the login cookie.